

FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

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And more . . .

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:

1 Peter 2:24

Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

Issue # 7

With the name **FOOTPRINTS**, we honor our commitment to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leaving a legacy for others to follow. At the same time, we look back and acknowledge the Bethel believers and our own personal *cloud of witnesses* who have gone before us leaving their footprints of faith for us to follow. We hope our humble efforts give Glory to God and provide enlightenment, entertainment, and knowledge to our readers. God bless you all!



Bethel's **vision** is to be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.



Bethel's **mission** is to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.



PoWeR SuRGe

- Pray daily
- Worship regularly
- Read Scripture daily
- Serve others
- Relate to other Christians in Faith
- Give of your financial resources



Editorial Board:

Gay Hanson (Editor in Chief), Pam Dodane, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Sarah Manro, Debbie Nielsen, John Patterson, and Connie Wooldridge.

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LENT—EASTER

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Pastor's Musings
Pastor Doug
Reflections on Lent



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As I sit down to write this pastor's page for our spring edition of Footprints, we are in the opening days of 2019. We are almost through the first 2 decades of the new millennium. Hard to believe! Yesterday we celebrated Epiphany and the coming of the wise men to worship and offer their precious gifts to the new-born Christ child. Next week we will hear again about the beginning of Jesus' ministry there at the Jordan River when he was baptized by his cousin John. It is a great reminder that each of our spiritual lives began at the baptismal font when the pastor poured water over our heads in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and shared God's approval, "you are my child and with you I am well pleased." And before you know it we will be entering our Lenten journey.

So to jump start my thinking about what I might write in this column, I did what my kids have taught me . . . Google it. So I Googled the word lent. It popped up with definitions for the word.

lent—past tense of the verb *lend*. To give for temporary use, on condition that the same or its equivalent be returned. Or to give assistance to, or support of . . .

leant—past tense of the verb *lean*. Rely on for support or inspiration.

Lent—is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. It is 40 days long excluding the Sundays in Lent.



Each of those three ways we use the word, or spell the word lent, leant, or Lent are important and a good word to use to help us understand our lives.

I think most of us would agree and affirm the fact that ALL that we have . . . All that we are . . . all that we enjoy in this life, including life itself is a gift. I think I first came to that startling conclusion at my daughter Rachel's wedding. Yes, she is my/our daughter and always will be, but there in that moment as she was beginning this new chapter in her life, that she really wasn't my daughter, she was a gift from God that He had entrusted me with to care, nurture and love to the best of my ability. Now she was off to build a new home and a new family. And today she will say God has gifted her with 3 beautiful children that He has lent to her and her husband Bryan.



And the older I get the greater the awareness and appreciation I have that for all that God has lent me. My family, my home, my blessing, my life, my health and everything else. And God



has lent us everything with the expectation that we use what we have been given to be a blessing in this world. Remember the parable of the talents that Jesus told. The 2 servants who invested their talents and returned those investment were blessed and commended for their efforts, but the one who hid his talent received the Master's disappointment and rebuke.

As we use the days we have been lent, God has lent us the power and the strength of the Holy Spirit. God has lent us His guidance through His Holy Word to give us direction and purpose. And through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God has lent us grace, forgiveness, hope and light to develop our character and to give us a model to follow.

As I look back over the years I can see time after time when I have leant on God's presence to see me through sickness and difficulties, and the heartbreaks and heartaches of life. I am eternally grateful for the brothers and sisters God has placed in my life that I have leant on for comfort, strength, love and reassurance. And I have leant on God's promises of the place He has prepared in His heavenly home, especially at the time of the death of a loved one.

Yes, life is hectic. Yes, we are busy. Yes, we find ourselves pulled seventeen ways to Sunday by all the stresses and presses of life. It is easy to get distracted. It is easy to replace the urgent when we need to focus on the important. It is easy to forget all that God has lent us and how much and many times we have leant on God's presence and support.

That is why Lent is a special gift to us. Lent is the time we intentionally take to remind us of the depth, breadth, and height of God's love. In Lent, we keep our eyes focused on the cross of Jesus, and the sacrifice he made to give us life and forgiveness now and opened to us the gift of life with him in eternity. Each year, we set aside these 40 days to lead us to the cross and the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Lent is a time to be intentional about returning to the roots of our being: to pray, to reflect, to nurture the relationship which transcends all of life's other relationships. I don't know about you but I am so glad and thankful God has again lent us this time, being mindful of His love and abiding presence he has lent us in the past, and counting again this Lent to lead us ever closer to Him and His purpose for each of our lives.



A blessed Lent to one and all. May the peace of Christ fill your hearts and minds this holy season.

PROFILE:

JOE & TREE RUDY



Joe grew up on the north side of Indianapolis with his sister, Sarah, who is older by three years, and their mom, Penny. His parents divorced when he was in 5th grade and his mom pretty much raised her two children on her own but did have a

very supportive extended family. Joe attended North Central High School until his senior year when he decided to live with his dad in Kokomo. After transferring to Kokomo High School as a senior, because of his previous course load from North Central, he was able to graduate early from high school in 1994. He then attended IUPUI where he studied social work and paramedic science. However, bombing human anatomy made Joe realize being a paramedic was not his calling. While in college, Joe worked as a social worker with people with developmental disabilities in group homes and apartment programs. Over the years the job evolved into management and leadership roles in the field of Social Work. He worked for two residential companies for about 12 years. Now, Joe is our Youth Director and Property Manager here at Bethel, where he's worked for about 10 years. In addition, last year, Joe started driving a bus for Noblesville Schools for some extra income. Surprisingly to him, he really likes it and found a great connection between youth ministry and driving a bus. It gives him an opportunity to work with other kids that may not come to Bethel. He's even had a student come to Confirmation Class because Joe drove his bus.

Tree, a nickname for Tricia because she couldn't pronounce her name when she was little, grew up in Greentown, Indiana. She is the youngest of four children, her brother J.R.



is 5 years older, and twin sisters, Jill and Anne, are 10 years older. Tree's parents, Ellen and Jim, have been married 56 years and still live in Greentown. Tree graduated from Eastern High School in 1993 and attended Ball State and graduated with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. Tree taught preschool for seven years and was a First Grade teacher in Hamilton Heights Schools for more than 10 years. Last year she made a change and is in her second year as the School Counselor for Hamilton Heights Primary and Elementary Schools. This is a very challenging role, and Joe likes to refer to her as the Youth Pastor of Hamilton Heights.



Joe & Tree

Joe and Tree were introduced by Tree's best friend, Carrie, who Joe went to high school with and sang together with in choir. But they didn't start dating until about 4 years after high school when they were able to get tickets to a Prince

concert at the Indianapolis Convention Center. They were married on August 26, 1998 in Oxford, England while backpacking together for a month in Europe. During this time, they lived in a two-person tent! They assure me their families knew they were going to get married on the trip.

The Rudys have lived in Noblesville for about 21 years, and for the last five years, they have lived off 10th street just north of downtown Noblesville in an old house they have been renovating. The house was built in 1906. The Rudys completely gutted it, and it continues to be a work in progress, just like we all are, Joe says.



Joe, Tree, Max, Aubrey, and Grandma Penny at Max's graduation

They are super proud of their two children. Their son, Max, graduated from Noblesville High School in 2018. He went through the automotive program at NHS/Ivy Tech and had an internship at Hash Imports his senior year of high school. They kept him on as a full time mechanic upon graduation and just recently, he was given his own bay! He continues to live at home but is looking at moving in with two friends and possibly continuing some classes at Ivy Tech. Their daughter, Aubrey, is a Junior at NHS (class of 2020). She's in show choir and a state thespian officer. Aubrey is active in the plays at NHS and has a role in the coming Spring play ("The Crucible"). Recently Aubrey was accepted in the IU foreign language honors program and will be going to Spain for the SUMMER!!

Joe and Tree came to Bethel about 15 years ago when their neighbors, Jeff and Hannah Bragg, knowing the Rudys were church shopping, invited them to a service. They say the day they came, they both knew Bethel was their home. They loved the people, the opportunities to serve,

and the learning. The feeling of home and familiarity was very strong. They describe Pastor Doug as a magnet, and Pastor E. Dean visited Tree at home one day and helped her hang laundry on the line while they chatted. They knew Bethel was their home church.

Joe joined the staff about five years later as the Youth Director and Property Manager. Throughout the years, Joe and Tree have held many roles at Bethel. Joe has been a choir member, church council member, worked in the Food/Baby Pantry, assisted with Eagle Scout projects, occasionally leads worship, leads the adult praise band and the youth band, coordinates all things having to do with the property (lawn mowers/snow shovelers, etc.), leads Confirmation Class, and leads MIDWEEK HS Youth Group.



Summer Camp Youth

Tree has been a preschool Sunday school teacher with Mrs. Day, the Toy Room lead at the rummage sale for 5 years, a science and crafts leader at VBS for a number of years, a MIDWEEK HS youth group leader, a helper with various youth fund raisers and fellowship events, a singer in the praise band, and the Rummage sale leader for a couple years.

When asked what their biggest accomplishment is or what they are most proud of at Bethel, Joe said impacting and supporting the youth of Bethel, developing relationships, and all the projects and fellowship events along the way! He also loves leading worship, singing, playing and speaking and especially serving our community directly at Bethel and in Hamilton County; Tree said the Rummage sale from last year...that's the most money we've ever raised without having a matching donation from an outside group.

ETHIOPIA MISSION TRIP



By Pastor Doug

This past September, I spent 12 days in Ethiopia. Thank you all for helping make this possible. Pastor Paul Borg and I flew out to Washington DC on Sunday the 2nd of September. Bright and early the next morning we boarded an Ethiopian Airline plane for Addis Ababa.



Global Forum on Mission and Ministry

I spent the next 3 days at the Global Forum on Mission and Ministry. Gathered were 45 leaders of Lutheran Churches from around the world. The goal is to provide direction, mutual support, and to witness to the commitment to teaching and sharing the authority and truth of God's Word.



Addis Ababa

From there, Paul and I went to Dessie, Ethiopia, in the North Central Synod of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) Lutheran church. There we were met by the President and former President of the North Central Synod. They were our guides and hosts for the next 3 days.

On Sunday the 9th, I preached at our congregation at Senbete. They were so glad we were there and



Preaching at Senbete

provided wonderful Ethiopian hospitality and thanked us over and over for our support and partnership in the Gospel. The church was packed and people were standing on the doorway and windows in order to be part of the service. There is an excitement, joy, and Spirit that fills one and all. They are growing and thriving despite the fact that Senbete is 98% Muslim.



Thank You Certificate to Bethel from Senbete Church

The church looks so much different than the last time I was there. Refurbished, painted, new entrance. Everything is run by a generator in the back that provides lighting and power for the music system. It is a different world. Prior to that we visited four other congregations and were warmly received by the leadership at each.



Pastors Mulugeta Melaku, Paul Borg, Gobena Degefa, Doug Gast, and Eva Wagnew Andarge at Senbete.

We returned to Addis and observed Ethiopian New Year's Day which was September 11th. Our host there was Lalissa Gemenchis, who has just received his doctorate from Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne. He is now the head of Mission and Development for the entire Ethiopian church which now number 9.5 million. They have a goal of reaching out with the Gospel to 30 million in the next 5 years. Their hope is 10 million will accept Christ and become disciples in the EECMY church. No wonder they are the fastest growing Lutheran church in the world.



Gifts from the Senbete Congregation

We spent half a day meeting with the Seminary President in Addis. The place is a beehive of activity. They have more than 1,000 young people preparing for ministry. Many come with nothing except a love of the Lord and a passion for mission.

Finally, we met with the Synod Presidents at a retreat they were having to get to know one another better, to pray for the church and the world, and to

share the vision of joining Jesus on his mission. We ate a quick dinner with them and then jumped in the van to return to the airport and head home.

The first time I was in Ethiopia, I had an opportunity to visit historical sites. This time God had a different plan, which was to be with the people and to deepen the relationships that we have begun. That is mission at its most basic....

Relationships.



Seminary Students



Seminary Library

What an incredible experience. Thank you, God, and thank you, Bethel, for the time and support!



Lalissa Gemechis

HOLY WEEK TIMELINE

Note: The exact order of events in Holy Week is still debated by Biblical scholars. This is an approximate timeline of events.

PALM SUNDAY



Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11;
Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

MONDAY



Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-46

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14

TUESDAY



The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree

Mark 11:20-25

The Challenge of Jesus' Authority

Matthew 21:23-27, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 20:1-8

The Parables of Warning

Matthew 21:28-22:14, Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20:9-19

Jesus Debates the Jewish Leaders

Matthew 22:15-46, Mark 12:13-37, Luke 20:20-44

Jesus Warns About the Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 23, Mark 12:38-44, Luke 20:45-21:4

Jesus Talks about the Temple's Destruction and Signs of the End Times

Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21:5-36

WEDNESDAY



Often called the "Silent Day" as there is no record of what Jesus did on this day recorded in the Gospels.

Conspiracy of the Chief Priests

Matthew 26:1-5, Mark 14:1-2, Luke 22:1-2

Jesus is Anointed

Matthew 26:6-13, Mark:1-9,

Plot to Kill Jesus - Judas' Betrayal

Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11,
Luke 22:3-6, John 11:45-53

THURSDAY



The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12-31,
Luke 22:7-38, John 13-17

The Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46

Betrayal and Arrest

Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52,
Luke 22:47-53, John 18:1-18

Trial Before Jewish Authorities

Matthew 26:57-75, Mark 14:53-72,
Luke 22:54-71, John 18:19-27

GOOD FRIDAY



Trial Before Pilate

Matthew 27:11-31, Mark 15:1-20,
Luke 23:1-25, John 18:28-19:16

Crucifixion

Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41,
Luke 23:26-49, John 19:16-37

Burial

Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47,
Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42

HOLY SATURDAY



Watchers at the Tomb

Matthew 27:62-66

EASTER SUNDAY



The Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8,
Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

The Report of the Watch

Matthew 28:11-15

On the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Mark 16:14, Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-23

NEW DISCIPLES AT BETHEL

We were blessed to receive into membership three new families in October. We are happy to “introduce” them so that you might welcome them and know some of their stories!

James & Marilyn Corley

James (Jim) and Marilyn Corley are originally from Illinois and now reside in Noblesville. They have transferred from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Decatur, Illinois. They have a son, Matthew (Matt). Several interests keep them busy, including watching their grandchildren play sports, camping and scrap-booking. They were happy to join us as our congregation seems God- and faith-centered to them. Also we strike them as family-oriented; they enjoy the friendly members. You can meet them at the Saturday evening services or the Sunday 11:11.

Myron & Marsa Storms

Myron and Marsa Storms of Cicero have joined us, although as both enjoy their retirement, many months are spent in Florida....October and November and January through May. They are both retired teachers from the Indianapolis area schools. They have one daughter and one son. When in town, they enjoy playing bridge, but are active in riding a Honda trike and also boating on Morse Reservoir! They commented that the pastors are friendly and the congregation is welcoming. Sunday 11:11 service is the service they attend.

John & Linda Renick

John and Linda Renick live in Alexandria. John grew up in TN. He graduated from Stetson University and completed his medical studies at Emory University School of Medicine. He practiced psychiatry for 45 years. He lectured at Stanford and Harvard, was Western Director of Substance Abuse, and Chief of Psychiatry at the U. of S. Alabama Hospital. He grew up in the Catholic Church but decided to become a Lutheran pastor after retiring from medicine.

Linda grew up in New Jersey. She has Masters Degrees from Marywood University in PA and the University of West Chester, PA. She taught French and Spanish for 30 years at the HS level.

They both love to read. John loves history and gardening. Linda loves animals and had her own horse farm for 20 years. She has worked in dog rescue and worked specifically with border collies.

John is currently in the call process. We wish them the best.

Gene & Judy Wernersbach

Gene and Judy Wernersbach are also Noblesville residents. Before joining, they attended for quite a while and felt “right at home” right away. They enjoy all three pastors. Retired, they are parents to a boy and a girl and three grandchildren. Gene has had a hobby a number of years of model trains...both the old and newer versions that run on the metal tracks. Judy enjoys people and likes to visit with their neighbors. They attend the Saturday evening services or the early Sunday morning service.



Welcome New Members

“WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU
WELCOMES ME,
AND WHOEVER WELCOMES ME
WELCOMES THE ONE WHO SENT ME.”

MATTHEW 10:40, NRSV



in **YOUTH** Action

By Sarah Manro



THE JESUS WALL

Have you seen the Jesus Wall in the Education Building? If not, you should go check it out! You can find it across the hall from the Student Center on the second floor.



The Jesus Wall started a couple years ago as the brain-child of Joe Rudy. After he painted a picture of Jesus on the wall in the Student Center and finding pictures of Jesus in thrift stores, he was inspired to have a Jesus wall outside the room for the rest of the church to enjoy. Joe's wife, Tree, suggested painting the hallway wall red and making it appear like a gallery of Jesus pictures.

Over the years, Kris Byerley, has contributed many thrift store finds to the wall and even contributed a copy of a water color painting of Jesus she painted. Other pictures and items

have been donated from members of Bethel, some found at the annual rummage sale. People outside the church have also heard about the Wall. Quite a collection has come together and there are many items not hung up yet.

The Jesus Wall project became a fun activity for the MIDWEEK High School group, which Joe and Tree Rudy and Kris Byerley lead. The high schoolers have hung most of the pictures and memorabilia and plan to paint

more wall space red and continue hanging more of the items collected.

Last year at Comedy Night, a Jesus Wall Starter Kit was a highly sought after item in the silent auction. It was so well received that another Jesus Wall Starter Kit will probably be in this year's Comedy Night silent auction. Comedy Night is February 15.

If you have a Jesus picture or item you would like to donate to the Jesus Wall please contact Joe Rudy or Kris Byerley.



TRADITIONS & SYMBOLS

Lent-Easter: Have you ever wondered?

By Gay Hanson



ASH WEDNESDAY – WHY ASHES?

Ashes symbolize two main things in the Old Testament – death and repentance. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are mortal – “for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19). Ashes are also a sign of repentance “The time has come,”

he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15) The use of ashes is a visual plea to God for mercy and compassion, pardon and forgiveness – the prophet Daniel clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes as a sign of his people’s contrition for their rebellion, wickedness, and treachery (Daniel 9:3). When we come to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and we want to use the season of Lent to purify our hearts, to correct our faults, and to grow in holiness and faith so that we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are often prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration.



WHY STRIP THE ALTAR ON GOOD FRIDAY AND THEN REPLACE THE PARAMENTS FOR EASTER?

During His trial and crucifixion, Jesus underwent great humiliation. His clothing was stripped from Him (Matthew 27:28). When

He died, His followers came and wrapped the body with linen cloths before they laid him in the tomb. When the women came to the tomb three days later, they expected to find the body wrapped in those cloths, but all they found was His grave clothes. Jesus had left the clothes of his death behind Him. When we strip the altar on Good Friday, we remember His humiliation and death suffered for us. When we replace the paraments with the white on Easter, we remember His Resurrection with the white of holiness and purity. We are not just as observers but participants in this transition!

THE PASCHAL CANDLE – WHAT DOES IT SYMBOLIZE?

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12). The paschal candle is the largest candle in the church. It represents the pillar of cloud and fire that led the Israelites through the wilderness to the Promised Land. (Exodus 13:21-22). Jesus was crucified, buried, and sealed in a tomb, but He rose again in glory – His light dispels all the darkness for us as Christ leads us to eternal life through his Resurrection! The darkness of Good Friday gives way to the bright light of Easter!

Traditionally, the Paschal Candle is lit on Sundays throughout the season of Easter until Ascension Day. It is also lit for baptisms, signifying the Holy Spirit and fire that were promised to those baptized in Christ, and it is lit and placed at the head of a casket or beside an urn at a Celebration of Life service to remind us again that Christ has triumphed over darkness and death with the light of his Resurrection!



WHERE DOES THE PHRASE, “HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA!” COME FROM?

The angels first proclaim the awesome news to the women who come to Jesus’ tomb, “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He is risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” (Matthew 28:6-7). The disciples also began to use these words to each other from this time forward (Luke 24:34). The followers and disciples of Jesus continue to this day to speak this Easter greeting, which is both a report of what has occurred and a proclamation of the Gospel. It proclaims salvation and eternal life to those who believe in the risen Jesus. When we participate in this great announcement of Easter, we proclaim to God and to one another our acceptance and our salvation because Jesus has conquered death and destroyed its power. What else can we say but, “Alleluia” – meaning “God be praised!” Alleluia, indeed!





NALC

North American Lutheran Church

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE

When Disaster Strikes: How NALC Congregations Can Help

What should NALC pastors or congregation leaders do when a natural disaster, such as flooding, tornadoes, and fires, strikes in their community or in an area where the congregation is able to or desires to provide assistance?

Since the NALC is a small church with widespread congregations, it is important that you contact us as quickly as possible when a disaster occurs in your area.

First and foremost, if the disaster is close by, make sure you are safe.

Next, contact the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, Mary Bates (740-509-1132; disasterresponse@thenalc.org) as quickly as possible so the prayer power of the NALC can be unleashed.

Be sure to also contact your [Mission District](#) to see if your local NALC Disaster Response Team can provide assistance.

NALC Disaster Response has resources and capabilities to assist in early response and longer term recovery. We can open the gates to material resources, networking, counseling, training, and volunteers.

Remember, the key is early communication! The sooner we learn of a disaster in your area, the more quickly NALC Disaster Response can respond to the needs of your community.

The Disaster Response Fund provides resources to:

- respond rapidly when domestic natural disasters occur
- alleviate human suffering
- provide transitional assistance
- enable those affected to begin the rebuilding process

The NALC's Disaster Response Coordinator administers the use of the fund, working cooperatively with and through local NALC congregations and members, as well as other compatible disaster relief organizations such as LCMS Disaster Response.

Donate online or mail checks payable to:

North American Lutheran Church
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

(Check Memo Line: "Disaster Response Fund")

Please note: This fund is for domestic disasters only. Gifts for international disaster relief may be directed to [Lutheran World Relief](#), [Water Mission](#), or the international relief organization of your choice.

Disaster Care Kits

To access the latest disaster kit content lists (baby care kits, flood buckets, health kits, school kits) go to: <https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/>. Blankets, quilts, Bibles and gifts cards (Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart) are always needed. Include items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces, religious symbols, messages or your group's name. Add other items as God leads you.

How to pack your disaster kits:

- Pack completed kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box with a label that says: *A PROJECT OF [church/group name and address]*

Please send your kits, material goods and/or gift cards to:

NALC Disaster Warehouse
810 Main St.
Caldwell, Ohio 43724

Be Prepared

The DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships, a center of the White House Office of Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provide resources to aid congregations in preparing their houses of worship for all hazards, including active shooter incidents.

Note: Bethel has an emergency plan in place, which is reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Al Schoonover

Perhaps it's just me, but have you ever wondered:

If Jesus lived, died, and rose again as a punishment for my sins, why does he come again in judgment at the end of time? Didn't his sacrificial death satisfy that judgment? Why do I still face another judgment?

In his parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus says he will come again to separate the righteous (sheep) from the unrighteous (goats). This is Peter's understanding after Pentecost (Acts 10:42); so also, the apostle Paul's perspective to the believers in Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:10) and Rome (Romans 14:10-12). Further, the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed, to which all Lutherans subscribe) all speak of Jesus' return "to judge the living and the dead." So, what are we to make of this? Are there one or two judgments? Or is something else going on?

The key to unraveling this comes from recognizing that Scripture and our Creeds are talking about *two different* judgments. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection satisfies the judgment for sin that all humans face in response to Eve and Adam's "original sin" of disobedience detailed in Genesis 3. As the both fully human and fully divine sinless son of God, Jesus takes our place before God as the only sacrifice that can mend the break in our relationship with God (Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 5:9). He bears the weight of the judgment that is rightfully ours.



Photo credit: Pixabay CCO Creative Commons Use

The judgment *believers* will face at the end of our lives, according to Matthew and our Creeds, is different. It's not a matter of whether we have done enough to earn our salvation (that's impossible). Instead, this judgment of our behavior evaluates the presence of faith in our life. One perennial challenge for believers is the idea that I can believe in Jesus as my Savior and follow God without it changing my personal behavior; that it's enough to believe in Jesus to be saved because I am saved by grace and not by works.

Jesus, Paul, and James remind us otherwise. James is rather blunt: *faith without works is dead* (2:26). Paul ties it back to our calling: *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago* (Ephesians 2:10). So the totality of this teaching is that we are freed *from* the power of sin, death, and the devil (the gift of salvation) *for* good works in this world (the work of sanctification). This is what faith looks like – an inner gift that is evidenced by our outer behavior.

It's important to remember that God is the final judge of our behavior; we don't get to sit in that seat. The evaluation of our life is something only God makes from the divine perspective of understanding fully our lives and abilities and motivations. Our only responsibility – our only "response-ability" – is to live out our faith as God leads us.

As we enter Lent and this next season of Bethel's ministry, in what one way is God calling you to demonstrate your faith? If you've never done so before, in what ministry is God nudging you to become involved? After all, it's how God has created you to be!

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

By Carole Kuhn

The Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives is believed to be a place where Jesus and his disciples went to pray many times going to or from Jerusalem. It is known as the place that days before his crucifixion Jesus prayed to his Father "...yet not as I will, but as you will."

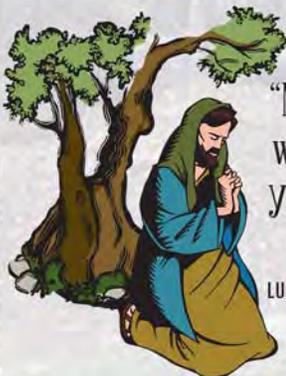
He had spent 40 days fasting in a wilderness, tempted three times by the devil, whom he rebuffed. He then led his disciples in their ministry.

But when he knew his time approached to pay the price for our sins, He went to Gethsemane to pray. He had taught abstinence and penitence and now he asked his disciples three times to stay awake, alert and pray while he did.

Three of his friends he took near the spot where he prayed and asked for "...this cup to be taken away....but thy will be done." All three times when he returned to his friends, they were fast asleep.

Perhaps Jesus was showing fear and loneliness....the Bible speaks of his sweat at times being like drops of blood. But he still handed his requests to his Father. Even when the soldiers, led by one of his disciples showed up and his friends tried to stop the action, he acknowledged this was to be "But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." (Matt.26:56 NIV)

Perhaps we can learn when frustrated, frightened or needing help, to drop to our knees and pray to avoid the negatives in our lives by remembering "...not my will but yours be done" and believe that God really does hear us....just as Jesus did at Gethsemane.



"Not my will, but yours be done."

LUKE 22:42, NIV

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Matthew 26:36-38 NIV

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39 (NIV)

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Matthew 26:45-46 NIV

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Gay Hanson



Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper"

THE LIVING LAST SUPPER

On Maundy Thursday, a cast and crew of Bethel disciples will present "The Living Last Supper" during the service. On Maundy Thursday each year, the Lutheran church commemorates the foot washing and Last Supper of Jesus with his Apostles. The events are described in all four of the Gospels. It is traditionally the day of First Communion for children at Bethel who have learned and prepared for the Sacrament.

Bethel

This year a group from Bethel will present "The Living Last Supper" both as a real-time telling of the story and as a tribute to the late Pastor Emeritus E. Dean Windhorn, who loved the production and was instrumental in it being presented on numerous occasions at Bethel and at other churches where he served.

Leonardo da Vinci was a famous Renaissance era painter. He was born in Vinci, Italy in 1452. In 1494, when he was 42-years-old, he was hired by the Duke of Milan to decorate the dining room of a church that was the favorite shrine of the Duke's young bride. Da Vinci chose "The Last Supper" as an appropriate theme for his painting, but he set the time period as fifteenth-century Italy rather than first-century Palestine. He also chose what he considered the most dramatic moment of "The Last Supper," when Jesus reveals to the Apostles that one of them will betray him. While the setting and appearance of the table are from a later time period, da Vinci's painting captures the power and emotions of the moment in that dark upper room. It also shows that while the Apostles' minds and emotions are in a whirl with unanswered questions, Jesus remains the calm center of the universe.

In "The Living Last Supper," we get a glimpse of what the Apostles might have been feeling, thinking, and saying after Jesus pronounces the ominous words, "One of you will betray me." On that night, each disciple felt in his own heart that he had betrayed Jesus, and those fears

were realized in the coming hours as Jesus was betrayed and crucified. They ran and hid in the darkness and yet that darkness was overcome when Mary Magdalene delivered her powerful message that "He is alive! The Lord is risen!"

The earliest production of "The Living Last Supper" seems to be from the fall of 1953 when the idea was suggested by a church organist in Petersburg, Virginia, who had seen a group of local men portray

Jesus in what had been called "A Living Picture of The Last Supper" based on Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting. Ernest K. Emurian took the next couple of months to study da Vinci and the painting and then proceeded to write soliloquies for the Twelve Apostles as they might have expressed their thought immediately after hearing Jesus say, "One of you will betray me." The new drama was presented at the Sanctuary of the Elm Avenue Methodist Church, Portsmouth, Virginia on the night of Palm Sunday, 1954. From 1954 through 1961, the original cast presented the drama sixteen times for more than 30,000 people. Since those first productions, the drama has been presented by many different groups from different denominations in all sections of the nation. It has been adapted and performed in churches, on the stage, and on television.

"The Living Last Supper" has been performed at Bethel several times. The most recent was April 21, 2011. The video may still be found at <https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=KL6ZGPNX>.

Please join us and invite your friends to experience "The Living Last Supper" on April 18, 2019!



Photo from Bethel's "The Living Last Supper" 4/21/2011

CHURCH HISTORY

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1940s & 1950s

Sunday School and other activities

The Sunday School was very active with an average attendance of from 125 to 135. The largest number recalled is 162. Sunday School was from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the year round. Opening services were held in the nave for the older youth and adults. Then everyone went to class, returning to the nave for the closing service. For several years (until the mid-60s) the Church School also met on Thursday nights along with choir practice.



Bible School Class of the 1940s

During the mid-50s through the 50s, the children joined together in the basement area for a brief opening service prior to going to individual class areas. The little ones always had the corner room while other classes met in the kitchen, on the stage (with the curtain pulled), the balcony, various corners of the basement (each with a sand box), and on occasion, even in the cloak room. On a few special occasions, the children were invited to join the “big folks” upstairs for the opening service.

There were special Saturday afternoon parties... Easter, Halloween, and Christmas...and sometimes an extra one thrown in. Little Easter bunny cakes, tiny birthday cakes, and Christmas trees made of popcorn brought smiles to many little faces. Also recalled by many is a round, white, wooden birthday cake. During the brief opening service, a birthday child would be honored with lighted candles in the wooden cake while being serenaded with the birthday song. Children having a birthday would contribute to the offering pennies for each year of age.

Christmas Eve programs were presented by the children. At the close of the program, the Young Married People's Class distributed oranges, apples, and bags of assorted hard candies to everyone.

In 1934, there wasn't any class of the young married couples at Bethel. In 1935, the Young Married People's



Junior Choir from the early 1950s

Class was organized with dues of five cents each month. Money wasn't so plentiful then and people couldn't go like they do today. So everyone looked forward to the Tuesday night meeting and social. There was a pitch-in supper, devotions, and a business meeting. Then everyone visited or played games. The class grew fast and soon had too many to meet in the homes so the meetings were moved to the church basement. The Christmas oyster supper was a yearly event. (It remained popular for many years.)

The class divided into two groups on the north and south sides of Cicero. Whenever anyone in one group needed help, the other members of that group pitched in. A closeness in the class was achieved by this service aspect of the group.

The five cents dues didn't add up very fast so it was decided to do something to make money. The class served suppers to the Lions Club, dinners at auction sales, election board and funeral meals, and penny suppers. They also cleaned the church once a year along with many other projects. It was a lot of hard work but there was a great deal of fun and fellowship in the process.

During the Cicero Fall Festival, the church had a concession stand where sandwiches, homemade doughnuts, and soft drinks were sold. The profits were used to fund the activities and projects of various church groups over the years.

Another money making event was the ice cream social held on the Sowerwine's lawn (located where the Hamilton County Bank parking lot is today.) It is reported that twenty-five gallons of ice cream were made!

1930 – the Cicero church building was finished at a cost of \$20,000. Church furniture was purchased at a cost of \$52 for the pulpit, \$151.20 for the altar, and \$30 for the lectern. R.B. Schaffer Furniture and Undertaking supplied 8 dozen chairs at a cost of \$12.00 per dozen.



CHURCH MUSIC

By Suzy Patterson

LENTEN HYMNS & SONGS

“Ain’t No Grave”

This is one of our Praise Band’s favorites. We mostly sing this during Lent, but we enjoy singing it at other appropriate times.

This song was previously sung by Johnny Cash. David Crowder, now known as Crowder sang the adaption that we sing.

He started singing/playing with a group at Baylor University. David saw a disconnect between the church and the 20-something generation and wanted to bridge the gap with their music. They helped found University Baptist Church in 1996. David was the worship leader and began writing music, songs which celebrate the goodness and nearness of God. This music attracted both the churched and unchurched alike. This music had the uncanny ability to absorb the needs and joys of the people and letting these reflections be heard through song. This band grabbed the #1 spot in Christian alternative contemporary music several times. They were named one of the “most thoughtful, progressive and exciting acts in contemporary Christian music.” (The New York Times) They continued as a group until early 2012 at which time David began singing solo under the name of Crowder and has quite a huge following.



“Ain’t No Grave” or “Ain’t No Grave Gonna Hold This Body Down” is a traditional American gospel song attributed to Claude Ely (1922-1978) of Virginia. He said that he composed the song in 1934 at the age of 12 while sick with tuberculosis. He said that it was a time when his family was praying for his health, and that he just spontaneously produced the song.

The song was recorded by Bozie Sturdivant in 1941 in a slow, Appalachian gospel style. In 1946-1947, it was recorded with barrelhouse piano by Sister Rosetta Tharpe. Ely’s version was recorded in 1953. Johnny Cash recorded it in 2003 (2010 release). Many notable artists have performed the song and it has been used in a number of films and tv shows.

"Ain't No Grave"

Crowder Lyrics

Verse 1

Oh my Lord, it’s a winding road;
It’s all bent from a heavy load
Feel the weight beneath the ground;
Ain’t no grave gonna hold me down
O my Lord, I can barely sing;
Waiting for You and Your reckoning
Angels humming, can You hear the sound;
Ain’t no grave gonna hold me down;
Ain’t no grave gonna hold me down

Chorus [after each verse]

I will rise, I will rise (repeat line);
Troubles come for everyone;
Death has no respect for love
Roll that stone I won’t be found;
Ain’t no grave gonna hold me down

Verse 2

Lord, I’m crooked from head to toe;
Got dirty hands and a dirty soul
I was lost but now I’m found;
Ain’t no grave gonna hold me down (repeat)

Chorus

Tag

Feel the weight beneath the ground
Ain’t no grave gonna hold – me – down

Chorus



LIBRARY MINISTRY

By Debbie Nielsen

“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors and the most patient of teachers.” Charles William Eliot, nineteenth-century educator and president of Harvard aptly summed up the sentiment of book-lovers. Today, several hundreds of quiet and constant friends call the Bethel Library home. Tucked away in the lower level of Bethel’s Education Building, the Library is a cozy spot where many folks find a welcome respite.



Some twenty years ago, Pastor Doug Gast encouraged establishing a church library as an outreach to Bethel members. While the church’s original blueprints designated the current Chapel area as a “chapel / library / workroom” (circa 1998), the library occupied that space only briefly and was moved to the space currently housing the Baby Pantry. At its inception, the library relied primarily upon members’ donations of materials. These included books, cassettes, and VHS tapes; later, CDs and DVDs replaced outdated audio-visual resources.

As Bethel grew, the library’s venue once again changed; in 2008, the library was moved to the upper level of the Education Building (Room #213). Archived “Bethel Banner” articles note the faithful volunteer committee members who managed the collection and contributed book reviews: Chaleen Stevens (head librarian), Cathy Crosley, Linda Crist, Joy Diamond, Anita Hagen, Pat Kneip, Trudy Kussow, Connie Lange, Lisa Paioc, Denise Rosenthal, and Carol Warning.

In 2012, Linda Crist and Jenny Turnage became co-directors of the library; in 2013, these ladies, enlisting the help of their husbands, Chuck and Gary, respectively, took on the monumental task of moving the library to its current location in the lower level of the Education Building. Both Linda and Jenny managed the collection until their resignation in late 2017. What an honor for me to take the position as library coordinator in 2017! The tireless work of such a dedicated team of ladies over nearly twenty years has yielded not only a vast collection of materials to encourage and edify Bethel members, but

the interior space itself is without equal when it comes to a sense of coziness--a bit of a sanctuary in its own right. Several groups, including Bethel’s Care Team and Sunday morning’s Loose Links class, regularly use the library as a meeting space.

The library collection is divided into and labeled according to several main categories for greater ease in browsing. The two most popular sections are Fiction and Christian Living. Christian Living encompasses the majority of popular non-fiction authors like Max Lucado, John MacArthur, Chuck Swindoll, and Rick Warren. The Bible collection includes over 20 different translations. Other categories include Bible Commentary, Bible Study, Biography, Caregiving, Children’s, Devotionals, DVDs, Family Living, Grief, Inspirational, Marriage, Prayer, and Teen. With the exception of the Children’s collection, books are arranged alphabetically by authors’ last names. New and popular items are featured in a separate section which regularly features newer released DVDs, books, and materials relevant to the current sermon series. The library also maintains a kiosk in the narthex and features new and popular items, as well.



Included in the Children’s, Teen, and Christian Living sections are resources written by Bethel members Connie Wooldridge, Denise Rezsonya, and Pastor Doug Gast.

The library operates on a “self-serve” basis and is open during service times. Patrons are asked to simply remove a card from the back of each item they wish to check out, record their name and phone number, and place the card in the designated container. Patrons may borrow items for four weeks, and it is important to return materials in a timely manner so that they can circulate more widely among Bethel members.

In our digital age, some may think the days of “real” books are past. Perhaps surprisingly, however, the popularity of print books is on the uptick. Recent research notes that reading retention is enhanced by print books

Continued on page 26

MISSIONS

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”

IN-VEST IN MISSION

By Gay Hanson

When Pastor Doug was in Ethiopia in September of 2018, he met and had discussions with the head of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) Seminary and with Lalissa Gemechis, who is now head of Mission and Development for the EECMY. Lalissa has visited Bethel before and was one of Pastor Doug’s hosts in Ethiopia.

One of the items that they discussed was the needs of the church and the seminary. Lalissa related that many clergy and newly ordained clergy do not have clergy shirts. There were two reasons for this, 1) there is a shortage of shirts available, and 2) the cost of the shirts is prohibitively high for many, if not most, of their clergy!

The Bethel Missions Committee decided that this was something they would like to help with especially since we have a growing and developing relationship with the EECMY.

For the next year and a half, Missions will be raising funds to purchase a supply of clergy shirts, which we will then send to our mission partner churches in Ethiopia and Malawi. To avoid costly shipping charges, we intend to send them with Pastor Al when he returns to Malawi or with other clergy going to Africa from the NALC. We can also ask Rev. Mulugeta Melaku of Ethiopia to take some back with him when he comes to Indiana to work on his Ph.D. this winter and spring.

The cost of each shirt is about \$25, and Missions will purchase the first \$100 worth. We will be encouraging our Sunday school classes and Youth Group to support this effort, and the Heartland Mission District (HMD) has adopted “IN-VEST IN MISSION” as their first District-wide mission effort. A number of clergy and lay people from the HMD have traveled to Ethiopia and/or Malawi, have seen the need, and want to do something about it!

So please consider supporting this effort. You will be providing an important symbol of their calling to these ministers of Word and Sacrament as they preach the Gospel of Jesus in Africa.

Remember as Genesis 12:3 says, we are blessed to be a blessing! This mission project will be a great blessing to our clergy partners.



BLESSINGS↑BEYOND↑BETHEL



IN-VEST IN MISSION

**Help provide new clergy
in our mission partner
churches in Africa
with clergy shirts.**

**Clergy shirts are in
short supply and
too expensive for most
people in these countries.**

**Together, we can help
provide these important
symbols of God’s calling.**

CHRISTIAN

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School — Sunday School for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Children go directly to their rooms where they will meet their teacher(s). They are dismissed to parents at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — Infants and toddlers under 3 are welcomed in our nursery on Sunday any time between 8:40 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Our paid Nursery attendant, Brenna Taitano, and other volunteers read Bible stories, play and love on our youngest members while their parents attend Adult Education classes or worship.

Preschool — Children who turn 3 years old before December 31st are invited to join our Preschool Sunday School Class at 10:00 a.m. Gospel Light Curriculum teaches children Bible lessons in a fun, age-appropriate way, with engaging songs, stories, videos and puppets!

K-5th Grade — Children are grouped into Sunday School classes by age/grade. Over a three-year cycle, students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during middle school. The curriculum used is "Sunday Schoolhouse" from Sola Publishing.

High School — We explore various topics of mutual interest, seeking to apply our faith to real-life situations and challenges; to move beyond the accumulation of more head knowledge, into the arena of faith application and growing as disciples. We begin class each week sharing at least one good thing from the past week. We encourage conversation and discussion in a respectful manner. We encourage active serving while reminding them of the little eyes looking up to them here at church. We end each class with prayer requests and prayer.



Confirmation

Confirmation class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) strives to move faith from the heard to the heart through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. Following class, we attend the 11:11 a.m. service to worship together. Once a month we will continue our time together after worship with a large group fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a sticky, life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and beyond the congregation. Join us upstairs in the Student Center. Contact Youth and Family Minister Joe Rudy for registration information (joerudy@bethellutheranchurch.com).



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Our High School (grades 9-12) youth ministry meets upstairs in the Student Center. A typical night involves hanging out, eating Oreos or something awesome, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing the important and the not-so-important things and wrapping up the evening with HI's and LOW'S. We welcome all (members and friends alike), and we encourage each other throughout the week. We have been known to go on trips, mission work, summer camp and Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too hard to do it alone so we try and do it together.

Baptism Class

This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents and the support they can expect to receive from the church.



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held each Spring during the Sunday School hour, beginning in Lent and culminating with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. For more information, speak with Kris Lingenfelter (Kris@BethelLutheranChurch.com).

Discovery: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

*Sundays —
Next class starts in May*



During this interactive and engaging "new disciple" orientation, participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each person to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church. Talk to one of the pastors or call the church office at 317-773-4315 to register.



Faith Stepping Stones

Bethel offers several "faith stepping stones" at significant points in a person's faith journey. These stones are intentional opportunities to go deeper in faith and, as a person matures, to accept for oneself the faith she or he has received from parents and godparents.

EDUCATION

ADULTS

Sundays: Coffee time: 9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Class from 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

ONGOING CLASSES - End May 19 New Participants Welcome!



Ask the Question—Chapel
Led by Jason Pearson & Lu Olp

The Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith questions and pushes for greater understanding, and a healthy church embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us as we discuss the questions you bring to the table, along with your cup of coffee and sweet treat from the coffee fellowship.



Loose Links—Library
Led by Suzy Patterson & Tree Rudy

A group of Christian friends who discuss, question, and banter around day-to-day life situations and use the Bible, their own “common sense,” and humor to help each other out. New participants expected and welcome!

WINTER CLASSES

Through March 24

Bible Study on the Book of Revelation —Rm 216/218
Led by Pastor Al & Jim Herr

The last book of our Bible is one of the most challenging and perplexing. Believers of different theological persuasions have studied it faithfully and thoroughly, and they have come to very different conclusions. What is Jesus trying to tell us about the present and the future? Join us on a 10-week Bible study of this fascinating book!

Through March 24

Does God Exist? —Rm 215

Led by Jim Hogle & Carl Wooldridge

Can we prove the existence of God, or are we left to grapple in the dark and take blind leaps of faith about what we believe? Steven Meyers presents a 10-part video series on the evidence for design in the universe which explores four prevalent worldviews in contemporary society. The level of presentation is upper high school or college level thinking. The program is directed towards high school and college students, and their families.

Through April 7

Learning Vulnerability on the Pathway of Transformation — Fellowship Hall

Led by Pastor Joe Freeman

Through an exploration of Brené Brown's book, **Daring Greatly** and some audio tape portions of her CD collection titled “The Power of Vulnerability: Authenticity, Connection & Courage” participants will become more in touch with the true persons they are, which cannot be done without being vulnerable, transparent and authentic.

No Classes

March 31—Spring Break or April 21—Easter

SPRING CLASSES

One Time Presentations:

April 7: Mission Trip to Ethiopia — Fellowship Hall
Led by Pastor Doug

Last September, Pastor Doug was part of a delegation of representatives from several Lutheran Church bodies to the Global Confessional and Missional Lutheran Forum in Bishoftu, Ethiopia. While he was in the country, he spent time with our mission partner congregation in Senbete. Come and hear how the Holy Spirit is doing wonderful things through the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and through our mission partner, as Pastor Doug shares his reflections and pictures from his time there.

April 14: Way of St. James Pilgrimage —Fellowship Hall
Led by Tina Marshall

For over 1200 years, pilgrims have followed the “Way of St. James” from St. Jean Pied de Port, France over the Pyrenees Mountains and across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. Join Tina Marshall as she shares pictures and experiences from her own 500-mile pilgrimage from this past fall.

April 7-May 19

Letters of Paul —Rm 216/218

Led by Greg Marshall

Back in Apostle Paul's time, letters were rare. Few people could read and write, “paper” was very expensive, and with no postal service, delivery of letters depended on hitching a ride with travelers. So, if you received a letter from someone, you can bet it was important, and it was likely something you would keep and treasure . . . forever. Though Paul's letters were not written to us, clearly the messages were preserved for us. Join us as we explore the Letters of Paul!

April 28-May 19

Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy —Rm 215

Led by Pastor Al

The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known parables in the Bible. Many people, even those outside the faith are familiar with him: a rebellious prophet who defies God and is swallowed by a “whale.” It is also often a misunderstood story. Did you know that Jesus saw himself in Jonah? Join us as we dig into this wonderfully complex parable and plumb the depths of God's amazing mercy.

April 28-May 19

At the Crossroads of Faith, Law, and Culture —

Fellowship Hall *Led by Kent Zepick*

Must a city-owned cemetery remove a cross that was erected to memorialize World War I soldiers because the cross is a Christian symbol? Like all Americans, Christians ask the United States Supreme Court to answer vexing questions like these, but sometimes the Court's murky rulings sow more confusion than clarity. And when the Court does speak with a clear voice, we sometimes hear ominous rumblings that make us wonder whether the right to live our faith in the public square is withering away. Join us as we examine the intersection of faith, law, and culture.

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

ACOLYTES

By Gay Hanson

The acolyte ministry has a long and honored history in the church. Some say that Samuel who assisted Eli in the Old Testament temple was the first acolyte! Acolytes are mentioned in a letter written in 251 A.D. by Cornelius, Bishop of Rome. By the 5th Century, the Roman Catholic Church felt that acolytes were so important that they “ordained” them. The Lutheran Church does not ordain acolytes, but they are an important part of the worship service and the life of the church. Being an acolyte is a ministry and service to God and should be approached with reverence and prayer.

The word acolyte comes from the Greek work *Akoloutheo*, (*ἀκολουθεῖν*), which means “to follow or attend,” “to accompany,” or “to be a “disciple.” In the early days, the acolyte might follow the worship leader to carry things as well as to light candles or to assist in the service. The acolyte is also a disciple or “follower” of Jesus.



In the Lutheran tradition, acolytes may be called on to carry a processional cross or crucifix, light and extinguish candles, ring the church bell, help with communion, or handle the offering plates. Acolytes may wear a white alb (robe), a cincture (a twisted rope with knots on the

ends and tied around the waist), and a cross. Whether or not the acolytes wear these is a matter of custom at the local church.

There are important meanings behind the lighting and extinguishing of the candles. In the early days of the church, before electric lights, candles and lamps served as the source of light when it was dark or when people were inside, therefore, making sure that the candles were lit was a very important and practical role of acolytes.

The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is symbolic of Jesus, “the light of the world” (John 8:12), coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Bowing at the altar before lighting the candles is a sign of respect. Before extinguishing the candles at the end of the service, the acolyte relights his or her “candle lighter” and

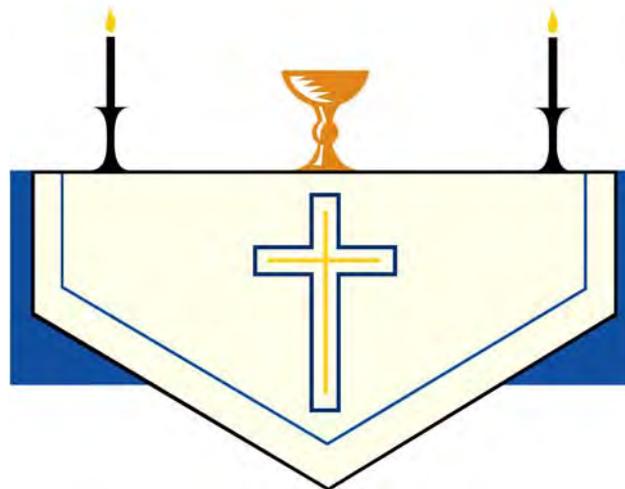
then processes out of the service. This symbolizes that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It also symbolizes Jesus Christ going out into the world where His believers are called to serve.

Acolytes are often called on to give the offering plates to the ushers, who then collect the offering and bring it back to the acolytes who are waiting to give those offerings to God. Raising the plates upward to God before placing them on the altar is symbolic of the people giving their offerings to God who is the source of everything.



During communions, acolytes usually participate by assisting in collecting empty cups or by assisting the pastor in any way he needs.

Acolytes are an important part of the worship service. They are an example to members of the congregation and especially to younger children for they are serving their church and Jesus!



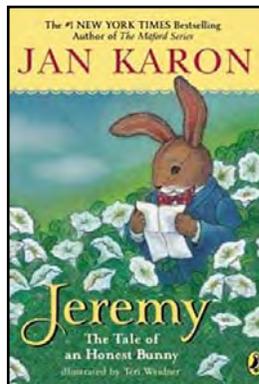
MARTIN LUTHER'S PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

BLESS ME, O GOD, WITH A REVERENT SENSE OF YOUR PRESENCE, THAT I MAY BE AT PEACE AND MAY WORSHIP YOU WITH ALL MY MIND AND SPIRIT; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Connie Wooldridge

Reading level:
Grades 2-4



JEREMY THE TALE OF AN HONEST BUNNY

by Jan Karon;
illustrated by Teri Weidner

Lydia Sweeney lived in a British village and made stuffed bunnies that acquired the ability to talk as soon as she named them. Most were sold to nearby families but her latest bunny was different: Jeremy was to be packed in a box and sent to a little girl named Candace in faraway America. When Jeremy objects to the dark, lonely box, in which Lydia plans to send him to his new home, he convinces her to let him make the journey on his own with a Bible verse to keep him company: *For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways...* On his journey, Jeremy meets new friends, escapes from some enemies and, using his faith, his wits, his honesty, and his kind heart, crosses an ocean and finds his way to a pink house with a picket fence that just happens to belong to Candace's grandmother. Karon keeps the story simple but doesn't shy away from some sophisticated vocabulary, sentence structure, puns, and theological references which will provide a nice great challenge for elementary school readers.

Reading level:
Grades K-3

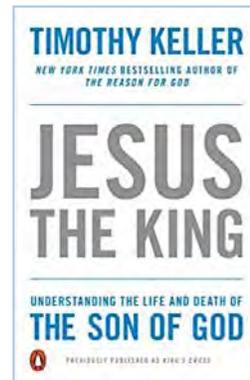


MISS FANNIE'S HAT

By Jan Karon;
illustrated by Toni Goffe.

Miss Fannie is 99 years old and has a lot of hats. She wears a different one each Sunday to church. When she's asked to donate a hat to an auction to raise money to fix up the church for Easter, she can't decide which one to part with. Each one is "like a friend" and brings back "special memories." The hat she chooses to give away results in a big surprise for Miss Fannie AND for the congregation on Easter morning. There are no child characters in this story; the draw, for young readers, will be a glimpse into the life of an ancient (in their eyes!) main character who has a childlike faith and delight in life.

Reading level:
High School/Adult



JESUS THE KING UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE SON OF GOD

By Timothy Keller

It is Keller's belief that "Jesus's life, death, and resurrection form the central event of comic and human history as well as the central organizing principle of our own lives." Structured around the Gospel of Mark, his book is divided into two parts: "The King; The Identity of Jesus" and "The Cross; The Purpose of Jesus." Keller's gift is taking traditional, core, Christian beliefs and making them so fresh it feels as if we're encountering them for the first time. What better season than Lent to return to the bedrock foundations of our faith.



WORD

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS & TERMS HAVING TO DO WITH LENT AND THE EASTER SEASON.

1. TENL _____
2. MOTB _____
3. AILRT _____
4. TEERP _____
5. SOCRS _____
6. DUSJA _____
7. RUPPEL _____
8. NAANHOS _____
9. STAPOLSE _____
10. DROUECSG _____
11. RAPOVSSE _____
12. AGATHLOG _____
13. RASUJEEML _____
14. XICCURNOIIF _____
15. RERRCIOSUNET _____
16. TYYSORFAD _____
17. MYASUDNPLA _____
18. GIESPHHIR _____
19. ODDIFAGRYO _____
20. EFEWTHASDE _____
21. DAWASEHSHDN _____
22. NEEDYAHSDSAW _____
23. ASTEERYNUDSA _____
24. LURHSYYDTHAO _____
25. APPITTEUSLOIN _____

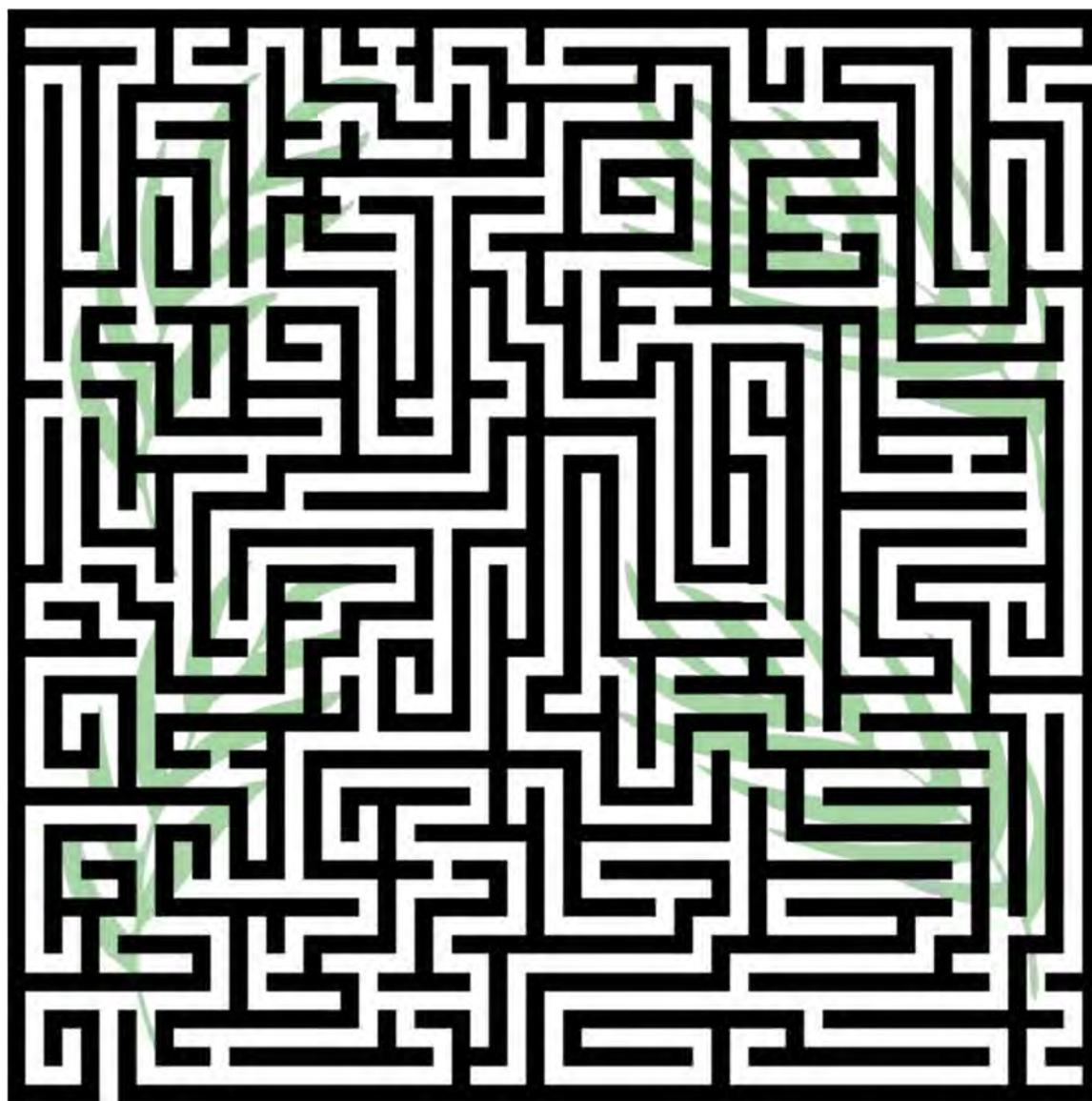


Answers may be found on Page 26.

PLAY

PALM SUNDAY MAZE

FINISH



START



Answers may be found on Page 26.

CALENDAR

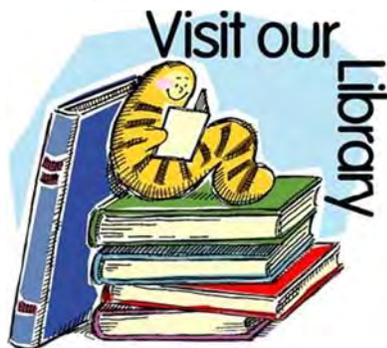
LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Bethel Lutheran Church functions on a liturgical calendar with seasons and holy days. There are colors associated with each of the seasons and holy days. These are shown on this calendar and are reflected in the paraments in the sanctuary.

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	2/3/19	4th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday	2/10/19	5th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday	2/17/19	6th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday	2/24/19	7th Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday	3/3/19	Transfiguration Sunday
Wednesday	3/6/19	Ash Wednesday
Sunday	3/10/19	1st Sunday of Lent
Sunday	3/17/19	2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday	3/24/19	3rd Sunday of Lent
Sunday	3/31/19	4th Sunday of Lent
Sunday	4/7/19	5th Sunday of Lent
Sunday	4/14/19	Palm Sunday
Thursday	4/18/19	Maundy Thursday
Friday	4/19/19	Good Friday
Saturday	4/20/19	Holy Saturday
Sunday	4/21/19	Easter
Sunday	4/28/19	2nd Sunday of Easter

Continued from page 18.

over a digital format. From a practical standpoint, print books don't run out of battery, nor do they suffer (nearly as much as an e-book) from being dropped! For bibliophiles, there's a calming effect in browsing the shelves in a cozy room. Pastor Al often begins his message to us with, "Gentlepeople of Bethel"--and truly among the gentle "people" our congregation boasts are the unassuming volumes resting quietly on the shelves of the library. We at Bethel are blessed with multiple sanctuaries--the general sanctuary we use for service, the Chapel, the Peace Trail, and equally a refuge, the library. If you've not visited lately, you're missing a treat. Stop by soon and... "check it out!"

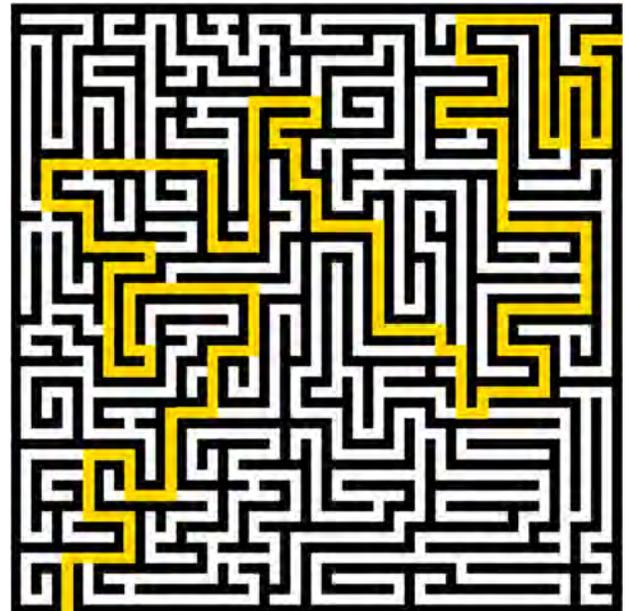


EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

February 1, 2019 — April 28, 2019

- Feb 6 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Feb 9 Preschool Spaghetti Dinner 5-7:30 p.m.
- Feb 15 Comedy Night
- Mar 1-3 Youth Retreat
- Mar 3 Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Mar 5 Shrove Tuesday Meal 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Mar 6 Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
- Mar 13 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Mar 20 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Mar 27 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Apr 3 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Apr 4 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Apr 10 Midweek: Meal 6-7 p.m. Worship 7-8 p.m.
- Apr 18 Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.
- Apr 19 Good Friday: Services @ 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Apr 20 Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Apr 20 Holy Saturday Service 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 21 EASTER—6, 8, 9:30, & 11:11 a.m. services

Maze Path



Answers to Word Scramble on page 24:

1. LENT, 2. TOMB, 3. TRIAL, 4. PETER, 5. CROSS,
6. JUDAS, 7. PURPLE, 8. HOSANNA, 9. APOSTLES,
10. SCOURGED, 11. PASSOVER, 12. GOLGATHA,
13. JERUSALEM, 14. CRUCIFIXION, 15. RESURRECTION,
16. FORTY DAYS, 17. PALM SUNDAY, 18. HIGH PRIEST,
19. GOOD FRIDAY, 20. WASHED FEET, 21. WASHED HANDS,
22. ASH WEDNESDAY, 23. EASTER SUNDAY,
24. HOLY THURSDAY, 25. PONTIUS PILATE.

Events

The image features a grid of 15 diamond-shaped event cards, each with a unique design and color scheme. The events are as follows:

- BUY A SHINGLE**: Bethel Lutheran logo with the tagline "Believe + Belong + Become".
- SERVICE OF HEALING**: Illustration of two hands holding a glowing oil lamp.
- Preschool Spaghetti Dinner**: Bethel Lutheran logo and an illustration of a plate of spaghetti.
- Comedy Night**: Illustration of a smiling yellow comedy mask.
- YOUTH RETREAT**: Text "YOUTH RETREAT" in a purple, brick-like font with a cross icon.
- Transfiguration OF THE LORD**: Illustration of a glowing white figure.
- SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER**: Illustration of a stack of pancakes with a fork.
- ASH Wednesday**: Illustration of a palm frond and the text "ASH Wednesday".
- LENT**: Illustration of a purple cross with a palm frond.
- MIDWEEK Meals & Worship**: Text "MIDWEEK Meals & Worship" in a purple circle with a cross icon.
- Good Friday**: Illustration of a crown of thorns.
- Palm Sunday**: Illustration of a green palm frond.
- Maundy Thursday**: Illustration of a brown bowl and a small figure.
- Easter Egg Hunt**: Illustration of colorful Easter eggs and flowers.
- EASTER**: Text "He is RISEN" and "EASTER" with a cross icon.



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH—1st THURSDAY DURING LENT

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

ASH WEDNESDAY— MARCH 6th

7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

MARCH 13th, 20th, & 27th & APRIL 3rd, & 10th

Midweek Lent: Fellowship Meal 6 p.m. & Worship 7 p.m.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday 8:45 a.m. & 11:11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.

Good Friday 12:15 p.m. (Peace Trail) & 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday 5:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 21

6 a.m. (Sunrise), 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:11 a.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

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NALC
North American Lutheran Church